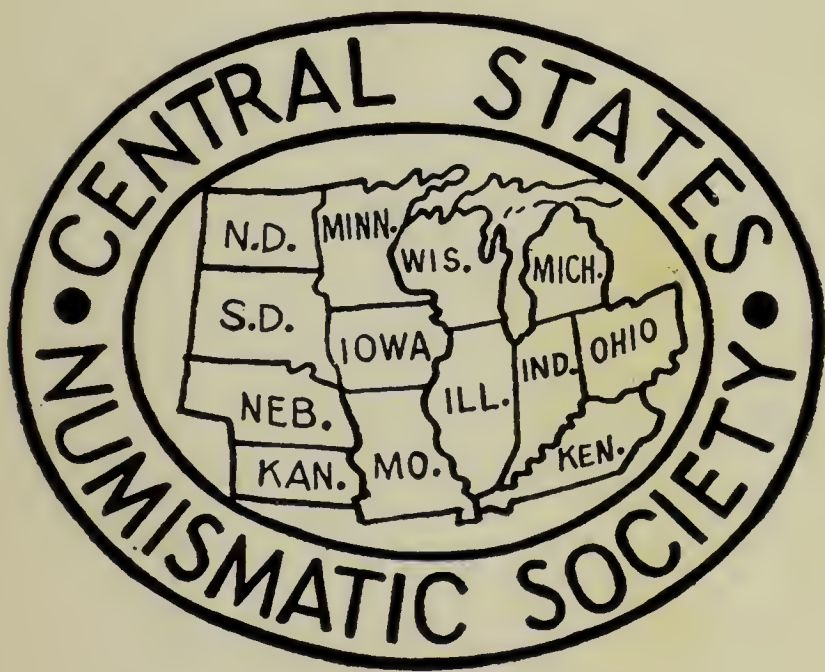


THE CENTINEL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



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1932	14.00	—	120.00	1936	8.00	20.00	37.50
1934	12.50	52.50	NM	1937	10.00	60.00	50.00
'34 lite motto	17.50	—	—	1938	30.00	—	NM
1935	10.00	50.00	35.00	1939	10.00	14.00	27.50
1936	8.00	225.00	32.50	1940	8.50	NM	—
1937	8.50	15.00	60.00	1941	7.25	14.00	32.50
1938	42.50	NM	30.00	1942	6.00	15.00	15.00
1939	7.50	10.00	28.00	1943	5.50	11.50	15.00
1940	12.50	42.50	7.50	1944	6.00	6.25	7.75
1941	3.00	5.00	7.50	1945	5.50	6.00	7.50
1942	2.50	3.50	18.00	1946	8.50	12.50	8.50
1943	2.00	3.50	5.50	1947	10.00	8.00	NM
1944	1.25	3.25	2.75	1948	13.00	8.00	NM
1945	1.25	3.00	2.00	1949	30.00	25.00	25.00
1946	1.25	3.25	5.00	1950	20.00	12.50	NM
1947	2.00	2.00	5.50	1951	5.50	25.00	15.00
1948	1.25	2.00	2.50	1952	3.50	3.00	12.50
1949	12.50	3.75	NM	1953	15.00	2.00	7.50
1950	1.50	1.50	3.50	1954	2.25	2.25	4.00
1951	1.00	1.00	6.00	1955	10.50	Bugs Bunny	12.50
1952	1.00	1.00	3.00	1956	4.00	NM	NM
1953	2.00	1.00	1.75	1957	3.75	2.60	NM
1954	.75	1.50	1.35	1958	3.50	1.75	NM
1955	1.50	4.50	NM	1959	3.00	1.75	NM
1956	.75	.75	NM	1960	2.25	1.75	NM
1957	.75	.75	NM	1961	2.25	2.25	NM
1958	2.00	.75	NM	1962	1.75	1.50	NM
1959 PD thru 1964 PD			.75	1963	1.25	1.25	NM
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From Our President

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the members of the Society who sent letters and cards of condolence during my recent bereavement.

—Ben Stocker

CORRECTION

It has been called to the Editor's attention that two errors appeared in January and April issues of **The Centinel**. The January biography of Erwin C. Gerber omitted the fact that Mr. Gerber is a Past President of the C.S.N.S. In the April issue the name of James B. Shirey was misspelled. The Editor sincerely regrets these errors and hopes they will not reoccur.

—HBE

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL EXPO-67 & NUMISMATICS

By GEORGE F. PETR

C.S.N.S. 1806

Entrant 1968-69 Elston Bradfield Literary Competition

As the year 1967 was approaching and Canada was to have a 100-year anniversary, preparations were being made as early as 1964 for many projects. One of the first projects was the Canadian Centennial Numismatic Park. This is the only numismatic park in the world. It came into existence in May, 1964. It is located in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. Sudbury is located about 188 miles due east of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The park was dedicated by John Fisher on July 22, 1964 to the people of Canada. In his dedication Mr. Fisher said, "May it be a constant source of pride to all Canadian and an oasis of friendship and good-will for all citizens, everywhere in the world." The park is managed by the Board of Directors of the Nickel Monument Development Ltd.

The park is maintained through funds from the sale of medallions of the various monuments which were built and are going to be built. These medallions are made of nickel-silver, copper .999 fine silver and 24-karat gold. The medallions were struck in Toronto by the Wellings Manufacturing Co.

The unique park of 20 acres had been in existence barely a year and already it had achieved a degree of fame throughout the world. Ideally situated on a high, rock mass of land at the city's limits. The park overlooks the International Nickel Company production works at Copper Cliff, offering a splendid view not only of the City of Sudbury, but also the three giant smoke stacks and the pouring of the slag. It has an attractive drive-in restaurant which has served visitors from the beginning

of the 1965 season. During the months of July and August about 3,000 people per day visit the park in which there is not a tree or blade of grass.

In 1964, a temporary museum was built near where the Model Mine is now located, and donations from companies, groups, and individuals from all over the world were being gratefully received. Now there is a three-wing museum for mining, history and numismatics.

Originally, the admission to the park was free, but slow sponsorship sales of the medallions has caused an admission of \$1.00 per car to be charged which includes the tour of the model mine. Proof that this unique project was vibrant is the park's rapid growth. By late spring, 1965, visitors were able to descend into the Canadian Model Mine, the only operational mine in North America. It includes a 60-foot vertical shaft which leads to a 150-foot drill emerging from the side of the largest hill in the park. Construction plans had called for a general simulation of condition, machinery and equipment to be found in an operational mine similar to those found anywhere in the "hard rock" mining territories throughout the world. The official opening of the model mine was June 19, 1965.

The centerpiece of the park is the beautiful and majestic Big Nickel. It is a 30-foot replica of the 1951 Canadian commemorative five-cent piece, constructed of gleaming stainless steel and mounted on a most unusual base 12 feet by 12 feet and five-feet thick. The Big Nickel itself is 24 inches thick. The rock of which the base is constructed contains many different ores, all mined in the Sudbury area.

The cost of this replica was \$35,000.

The first of the number of smaller replicas of various coins of the world was also under construction. It is a 10-foot replica, 12 inches thick, of the 1965 Canadian one-cent piece, fashioned of copper and mounted on an unusual base. The platform and steps leading to the one-cent piece are made of flagstone found in the Sudbury area, with intermingled copper-bearing rock samples. The name of this monument is The Fantasy Copper, so named because this coin replica is sponsored by the Fantasy Copper Co. of Toronto. It was unveiled on May 15th, 1965, by the Honorable John Diefenbaker.

The construction of the most important addition to the project will be the Kennedy Coin Memorial. The 20-foot replica, 18 inches thick, of the U.S. 1964 Kennedy half-dollar will rest on an impressive 15-foot base composed of a glass enclosure sheltering an eternal flame on top of a pedestal of marble and nickel stainless steel. Because this beautiful monument is to be the most expensive coin replica in the park, financial assistance or sponsorship was sought. The replica will cost an estimated \$50,000. Thus the sale of various medallions was launched. The inscription at the base of the monument will read as follows: "... and so let the world go forth ... that the torch has

been passed . . . John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the U.S.A."

In August of 1965 plans were made for the Indian Wampum monument. Since wampum was the first currency used by the North American Indians to trade with the white man, it seemed very fitting to have this symbolized in the park. In May, 1966 the Wampum replica was constructed of simulated beads, measuring 6 feet in length, arranged on eight 12-foot-high cedar logs. In front of this there are two lifelike replicas of a trader and an Indian dressed in the fashion of pioneer days. In front of the trader is a 25-foot totem pole covered with strange faces and animal figures. These tell the history and ancestry of each chief in the clan as seen through the eyes of their carver.

The latest planned addition to the park is the Sir Winston Churchill five-shilling coin memorial. The replica will be constructed of copper, with a diameter of 12 feet and a thickness of 14 inches. It will be supported by three granite pillars 10 feet high and each pillar will bear the symbol and the description of one of Churchill's greatest attributes and contributions to the world.

A medallion has been struck for each of these memorial monuments and are made of the nickel and silver mined in the Sudbury area.

COMING EVENTS — Continued from page 8

September 22 ... Albion, Mich.

Albion Coin Club Show

Harrington School

James DeWolfe

Route 2 Marshall, Mich. 49068

* * *

September 29 ... Berwyn, Illinois

Oak Park Coin Club Annual Show

Sokol Tabor Hall

P.O. Box 167 Oak Park, Ill. 60303

* * *

October 5-6 Des Moines, Iowa

I.N.A. Annual Convention

Hotel Savery

P.O. Box 57 Des Moines 50301

October 11-13 ... Chicago, Ill.

P.N.G./C.C.C. Annual Show

Palmer House

P.O. Box 1022 Evanston, Ill. 60204

* * *

October 12-13 ... Hopkins, Minn.

MOON Annual Convention

Hopkins House

Box "C" Austin, Minn. 55912

REAGAN FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE BRADFIELD AWARD

Sol Kaplan, Executive Director of the Lewis M. Reagan Memorial Foundation, announced at the April 21 Board meeting of the Society that the Reagan Foundation will provide the C.S.N.S. with a suitable award for the newly established Elston G. Bradfield Literary Award. The Award will be presented for the best article appearing in the Society's official publication, *The Centinel*.

The Editor of the *Centinel* indicated that several entries had been received for the award that was established at the 1967 convention. The Board authorized the Editor to continue to solicit articles and publish those articles which seem worthy of consideration for the Bradfield Award.

Elston Bradfield was the first Editor of *The Centinel*, holding that position from 1955 until 1960. The well known Chicago area numismatist was also Editor of the *Numismatist*, official publication of the American Numismatic Association. "Brad" resigned from both publications due to ill health. He and Mrs. Bradfield now live in suburban Chicago.

Howard Eisenberg, current Editor of *The Centinel*, asked that all articles to be considered for the Bradfield Award must be in the Editor's hands prior to January 1, 1969, but preferably as soon as possible. The award will be made at the Chicago convention. Entries should be sent to Eisenberg at 1308 Spring Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.

EDITOR ANNOUNCES PLANS

Howard Eisenberg, Editor of *The Centinel*, has announced his personal plans which include a move from Chicago. Eisenberg who graduated from Northwestern University in June is at the present time undergoing Army Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia prior to his entry into ROTC at the University of Wisconsin where he will enter the Law School in September.

Eisenberg, elected to the Alpha Illinois Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa national honorary society, will be married to Miss Phyllis Borenstein on August 25. After a Canadian honeymoon the couple will take up residence

at 1308 Spring Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.

Eisenberg asks that all correspondence be sent to the Spring Street address henceforth. The Editor asks your understanding due to the unavoidable delays in replying to correspondence. Billing for the July *Centinel* will be accomplished after July 20 when Eisenberg returns from Georgia.

The Editor indicated he intends to continue to be active in both C.S.N.S. affairs as well as that of the Chicago Coin Club. Eisenberg will serve as Chairman of the 1969 Chicago convention of the Society.

ATTENTION

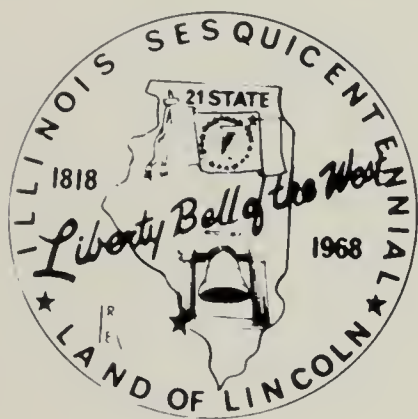
The following are dates of future C.S.N.S. Conventions:

May 2-4, 1969	Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
May 1-3, 1970	Pick-Carter Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio
April 30-May 2, 1971	Chase-Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri
April 28-30, 1972	Sheraton-Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Invitation for future conventions must be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer. The 1973 convention will be awarded at the Chicago convention.

CLUB CORNER

G. Jack David was elected President of the Indiana State Numismatic Association (C.S.N.S. 1012) at the Association's convention in May. Also elected were Ken McCord, First Vice President; Kenneth Webster, Second Vice President; N. Neil Harris, Secretary; and John A. Shaffer, Treas. . . . The Illinois Numismatic Association (CSNS 1074) has issued a medallion for its ninth annual convention and for the State's Sesquicentennial. The medallion (see photo of reverse) was



designed by ILL.N.A. President Roy Kuester and features the Association's emblem on the obverse and the Sesquicentennial Flag and "The Liberty Bell of the West" on the reverse. Orders are being accepted by the ILL.N.A. Secretary, Oliver Horton, 2393 Washington Road, Washington, Ill. 61571. A proof silver medal and an uncirculated medal in bronze are priced at \$8.50 per set for ILL.N.A. members and \$10 per set for non-members . . . The Missouri Numismatic Society (CSNS 850) celebrates its thirtieth anniversary at its April 8 meeting. Ninety-four members, including two charter members, and 14 guests were present at the Mid-Town Holiday Inn for the meeting. At the meeting Eric Newman, an MNS Charter member, talked on Coin Forgery and his experiences at the recent International Numismatic Congress in Copenhagen.

Those attending the meeting were presented with a memento, a 1938 buffalo nickel imbedded in clear plastic, bearing the inscription "MNS—1938-1968." . . . At the M.N.S. May meeting William Zimmerman spoke on silver coinage. Also at this meeting the slate of officers for 1968-69 term was presented. Those nominated included David Cooper for President; Ora Royer, Vice President; Mrs. John Stevenson for Secretary; and Russ Vogelsang for Treasurer. Those nominated for board membership were: John Stevenson, Chairman; and Messrs. Scott, Braun, Perleman and Wick The Maryland Foreign Paper Money Club (CSNS 1967) issues an interesting publication, *The Currency Collector*. Membership in this national organization is open to all collectors of foreign paper money. Membership information may be obtained from Alexander Sullivan, 701 Hammonds Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21225 . . . Russell Paxson spoke on "The 1796 Devizes Token" at the May meeting of the Western Reserve Numismatic Club (CSNS 1006) . . . The May meeting of the Chicago Coin Club lasted so long that the speaker, Howard Eisenberg, was unable to appear. Max Schwartz and Jess Peters, officers of the Professional Numismatists Guild, attended the meeting and presented certificates of appreciation to members of the Club (CSNS 756). The Club plans to issue a medallion to mark the organization's golden anniversary. The medal, which will be made available to members only, is being designed by the noted sculptor, Trygve Rovelstad.

Wayne County Coin Club, Wooster, Ohio, reports an attendance of 380 persons at its recent show. . . . The Morton Grove (Ill.) Coin Club's annual show held at the Niles YMCA drew its usual packed house. It also featured an auction.

CENTRAL STATINGS . . Culled by H. B. Eisenberg

For the second consecutive summer I shall be a guest of our Federal government. Last summer I was honored with an N.D.E.A. Grant for study in the U.S.S.R. This summer I shall be participating in ROTC Basic Camp at Fort Benning, Georgia. I'll be back towards the end of July and will hopefully be in better physical shape. Right now the only part of my body that is physically developed is my fingers which have very good "typing muscles." To make matters better (or worse depending on your point of view) I shall be married in August. I appreciate the many notes I have received and the few bits of advice I received from a number of numismatic husbands The Detroit convention was a fine affair. It was good to see our friends Felix Schlag and Charlie Lyle looking so well after serious winter illnesses. President Ben Stocker, who puts all of us younger men to shame, outlined a vigorous program for the Society for the next two years. The program included making it clear to the Governors that they are expected to work for the Society . . . Irving Moskovitz crushed several toes when he dropped an eighty-five pound silver bar on his foot while setting up his convention exhibit. At last report he was doing well . . . Those who attended the P.N.G. Dinner prior to the official start of the convention were treated to some unique entertainment provided by well known dealer Charlie McSorley . . . Fortunately there is no room in this issue for my regular sarcastic editorial. The one I had written for this issue took issue with the most recent election changes proclaimed by the A.N.A. Board. I see, however, that almost every numismatic publication has taken a stand against this ill-conceived plan for the indirect election of President and Vice President. There is wide spread feeling, however, that the real reason for

these changes are to be found in personalities and not in the Federal Charter as the A.N.A. asserts . . . I am always hesitant to write editorials because this publication reflects upon our Society even when the Editorial states that it is only my opinion. The shame of it is that every publication is afraid of publishing anything controversial . . . The conviction of several dealers for sneaking coins into the country that are forbidden by the Treasury is really a joke. If all the dealers who have knowingly dealt in illegal coins were arrested our professional fraternity would be much smaller. The whole situation is so absurd that the time has come for the numismatic community to bring great pressure against the Government to overturn the recent rulings against the importation of some coins . . . The idea that you have to be a "friend" of the Treasury Department is silly. If we can start seeing commemorative coins, importation of ALL coins, and a true coinage commission I will forego appointment to the Assay Commission and fight the Mint, the Treasury and the administration thereof . . . Those who requested that I include a photo with this column are again going to be unhappy. I tried to find a suitable photo, but I couldn't turn up with anything. Maybe by October I can find a wedding picture to inflict upon our membership . . . Well, all of you have a happy summer which I pray will be safe and successful for you . . . and me.

—o—

ACCEPTING MINT SET ORDERS JULY 15

Sets of uncirculated 1968 coins may be ordered from U.S. Assay Office, 350 Duboce Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94102 beginning July 15. Price of the ten-piece set is \$2.50, which includes registered mail delivery.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE FIRST COLUMBIAN HALF DOLLAR

By WILLIAM A. PETTIT

C.S.N.S. #1782

Entrant 1968-69 Elston Bradfield Literary Competition

(Continued from April issue)

The headlines read: "The First Coins Minted—Prize World's Fair Souvenirs Turned Out at Philadelphia—The Second Attempt Results in the Production of the Perfect Coin—There was a Large Gathering of Distinguished People Present, Philadelphia, Pa., Nov 19—(Special). — It was a \$10,000 beauty that dropped today from the coin press at the United States Mint when the work of coining the Columbian Half Dollars began. Supt. Bosbyshell was on hand to represent the government and Joseph W. Ellsworth of the World's Fair Commission represented that body. There was great interest manifested in the affair because of the big premiums that have been offered for certain of the coins. In addition to the first one, there were also coined and delivered to Mr. Ellsworth the 400th, 1492d and 1892d of the new Half Dollars.

"Over two thousand of the souvenirs were struck today, and the work will continue until all of the 5,000,000 donated by Congress are completed. With the exception of the four valuable coins already specified, the remainder will be held at the mint until orders for their disposal are received from the Treasury Department. The work of coining the souvenirs will not be finished much before the opening of the Exposition in May, next.

"When the hour arrived, Supt. Bosbyshell was summoned to the press-room by Chief Coiner William S. Steele, while Engraver Charles Barber, who designed the famous coin, Chief Clerk M. H. Cobb, and others, assembled as witnesses. Two dies, one bearing the impression to be stamped upon the obverse face, and

the other the reverse, and the only pair in existence, were already in place. Foreman Albert Downing placed one of the blank planchets in the receiver and grasped the lever which raises the lower die, while Edwin Cliff, his assistant, stood at the balance wheel. Unfortunately, the first attempt was a failure—a little flaw caused the coin's rejection.

"The next attempt was made more carefully, for the reputation of the coiners was at stake, and they had resolved that the first souvenir of the Exposition should be a marvel of perfection and beauty. The planchet, before being accepted, was examined under the microscope and found without a blemish. For the second time, the two workmen turned the press by hand while the spectators waited in suspense. Again the coin was lifted from the face of the steel die and critically examined by Coiner Steele, Engraver Barber, and Superintendent Bosbyshell. Every line was sharply defined, and the strong features of the discoverer of America, which adorn the coin, seemed to look approvingly on the work. Columbus himself could not have done better, and Uncle Sam's reputation as an artist was vindicated.

"Cardboard boxes had been prepared for the reception of the coins, much like those in which pills are sold. No finger touched the first of the souvenirs, but the pliers gently clutched it by the rim and conveyed the \$10,000 lump to the box which was immediately sealed and handed to the World's Fair Commissioner."

The following certificate accompanied the coin:

"MINT OF THE UNITED STATES

AT PHILADELPHIA, Superintendent's Office, Nov 19, 1892. I hereby certify that the souvenir coin in box marked No. 1 was the first piece struck from the dies adopted for the Columbian Half Dollar and sealed up in my presence and in the presence of the coiner, and delivered to Mr. James W. Ellsworth of the Columbian Exposition directory.

O. W. Bosbyshell, Supt."

After the delivery of the first coin the foreman and his assistant con-

trait of Columbus according to Lotto upon one side, while upon the other is the discoverer's caravel, the Santa Maria, in full sail. Beneath the vessel is the date 1492 and the two supporting hemispheres representing the Old and the New World. The motto 'In God We Trust,' and the date 1892 are the remaining details.

"Commissioner Ellsworth will take back with him most of the coins for which fancy prices have been offered. The entire vintage will be shipped to

The Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Superintendent's Office,

January 3rd 1893

I hereby certify that the Columbian Half Dollar sealed in a pasteboard box marked "Phila. Jan. 3/93. First Columbian Half-Dol struck in 1893 O. W. Bosbyshell Supt. Mint U.S. at Phila.", and this box enclosed in another pasteboard box with a strip of paper pasted over the seam thereof, and sealed, marked "No. 1. 1893, is the first Columbian Half Dollar struck from the dies of 1893, and was sealed by myself.

O. W. Bosbyshell
Superintendent

tinued by hand until they had struck 100 proof pieces, occupying about an hour in the task. Power was then applied, and the actual work of making 5,000,000 half dollars went rapidly ahead.

"The new half dollars bear the por-

Chicago and disposed of from that city. The coin was designed by Morgan, an Englishman, the same who planned the dollar of the daddies. The sum of \$10,000 is to be paid the Columbian Commission for the first half dollar, and it was for that reason

that Mr. Ellsworth witnessed the coin-ing. He will make affidavit to what he saw."

The most shocking item in the article was that the piece that I had seen at the Field Museum was **not** the first Columbian Half Dollar! As it states in the article, the first one was imperfect, and we can presume that if for no other reason than shame the coin was thrown back into the melting pot to disappear forever, and that the one I had seen was the first perfect 1892 Columbian Half Dollar. Another piece of unbelievable luck was that one of the documents in the brass frame was quoted verbatim in the newspaper article. From the standpoint of a researcher, this is the kind of luck one can only dream about.

After the newspaper find I returned to the curator's office and asked him if I could make arrangements to see the 1893 Columbian Half. He said it could be arranged at some future date, and that there were other items with the coin. I thanked him for his efforts, and left.

A week or so later, I returned to the Field Museum to make arrangements to have the documents and the brass frame photographed. I told Mr. Nelson I would like to get some photos, if possible, to illustrate an article that I was preparing. He stepped to the phone and called up to the Photography Department. A few moments later Mr. Holdren, of the department, arrived and asked what photos were needed. I said, "One of the frame, one of each of the documents, and a close-up of each side of the coin. They need not be large because space may be limited when the article appears. He said, "We'll make them 8" x 10" so they'll be able to see them. They can always be reduced." I was sure he knew more about his business than I, so I quickly agreed.

While I was still there, Mr. Nelson mentioned that he had found something that, although not directly re-

lated to my project might be of some interest. It seems that the Field Museum was originally called the Field Columbian Museum, and had as its attractions numerous items associated with the Columbian Exposition. What Mr. Nelson brought out was the first ticket sold at the Museum on June 4, 1894, and the coin that had purchased it. The coin was an 1854 quarter in very average condition. These items had been kept by the Museum since that day in 1894. After this, I thanked the gentlemen for their cooperation and proceeded to other things.

The next item of importance was to make an appointment with the director of the Chicago Historical Society, Mr. Clement Sylvestro, and ask him if it would be possible to borrow the 1893 Columbian Half Dollar to display with the 1892. I made the appointment for a Friday morning, and also made arrangements with Mr. Zywicki to see the coin.

On the designated Friday I came in to Chicago and went out to the Chicago Historical Society. I arrived somewhat earlier than I had anticipated. I was to meet with Mr. Sylvestro at 10:30, and I was already there by 9:45. I felt this might give ample time to see the 1893 Columbian Half Dollar. I asked the girl at the desk if Mr. Zywicki was in yet. She said he was not, but was expected shortly. A few minutes after 10:00 he arrived, and I asked him if it would be possible for me to see the coin now. He said it would, and we went back to his office. He told me to be seated while he went to the vault to get the coin. I mentioned to him that he had said there were other things with the coin and that I would like to see them at this time also. (Having gone through the correspondence in the file at the Historical Society, I had an inkling as to what those things might be.)

A few minutes later Mr. Zywicki returned from the vault. He had three large envelopes and a small round

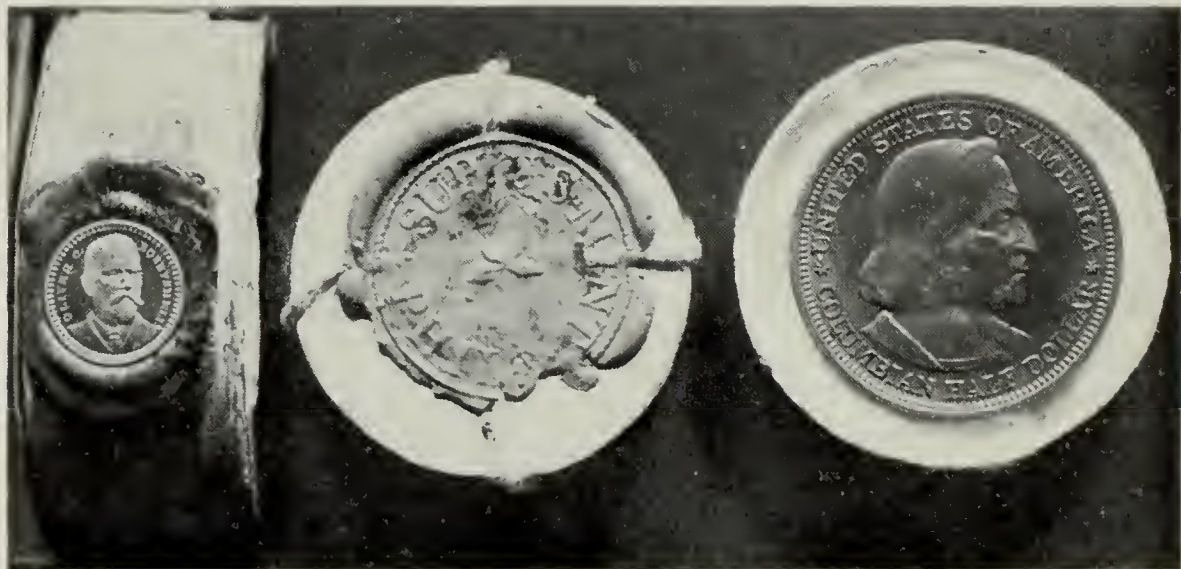
box. The little box was like a pill box, and on top of it was written: "No. 1, 1893" and it was sealed on the side with red wax with a small medal pressed into the wax. On the medal was a portrait of Superintendent O. C. Bosbyshell, and showed that he had sealed the box. Inside the first box was a second box. On top of this box it read: "Phila. Jan 3/93 First Columbian Half-Dol. struck in 1893, O. C. Bosbyshell, Supt. Mint U.S. at Phila."

I opened this box and inside I saw cotton. I took the cotton away, and there was the first 1893 Columbian Half Dollar — a gray proof. The condition was the same as the 1892, except that this one, having been exposed to

read: "400th 1892 Columbian Half Dollar." I was amazed that these pieces should also be here. But the biggest shock was yet to come.

On the back of each envelope was a red wax seal roughly the size of a silver dollar. Much to my surprise, these seals had never been broken! The coins had been sealed in the envelopes on November 19, 1892, and from that day to this, have never seen the light of day! A most unusual bit of numismatic history.

As I was looking at these coins, a gentleman came into the office and began conversing with Mr. Zywicki. I gathered from what was being said that the gentleman was the director,



the air, had toned to a gray color. After picking it up by the edges and examining both obverse and reverse, I was satisfied that this was the coin I had been looking for.

I then turned my attention to the three envelopes that had been brought along with the coin. (You will recall from the newspaper item it mentioned that the 400th, the 1492nd and the 1892nd had been put aside as special coins.) As I looked at the envelopes, the first one I picked up read: "1492nd 1892 Columbian Half Dollar." The second one read: "1892nd 1892 Columbian Half Dollar," and the last one

Mr. Sylvestro. After introductions, I mentioned that he need not be detained too long because the items to be discussed were right at hand. He agreed to sit for a moment and listen to my request. I told him that we had the co-operation of the Field Museum in getting the 1892 Columbian Half Dollar, and we were very interested in getting the 1893 to exhibit with it at the P.N.G. Show in the Fall. I repeated to him the provisions for security and publicity that I had told Mr. Webber of the Field Museum. Mr. Sylvestro explained that there were several concerns in his mind concerning the

lending of museum specimens, and especially the coin. As he went along, I was beginning to get the gist of what he was trying to tell me, so I thanked him for his time and that I understood his position, and that I would be leaving.

He said, "Now, just a minute, young man, I didn't say no!" This was quite surprising, but encouraging. He said, "What I will need is a letter on your letterhead stating what you want, what the security and insurance arrangement are, and all the details. When I have this letter, I will take it up with the Board of Directors of the Chicago Historical Society." I assured him that he would have all of this information within the week. After making final arrangements with Mr. Zywicki for the photographing of all the documents relevant to the coins, I left

My concern now was the answer to the letter that was sent to Mr. Slyves-

tro about borrowing the coin. Then one day in July the letter came, and it stated that the Society would be happy to lend us the 1893 Columbian Half Dollar.

So, with the two coins exhibited at the P.N.G. Show, numismatic history is being made. This is the first time — and possibly the last — that these coins have ever been exhibited together. Each participant and viewer will give this priority in their individual numismatic archives.

This, then, is the story of the discovery and exhibiting of the first 1892 and 1893 Columbian Half Dollars — the resurrection of the first Columbian Half Dollar.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sincere thanks and gratitude go to E. Leland Webber, Norman Nelson and Homer Holdren, of Field Museum of Natural History; Clement Sylvestro and Joseph Zywicki of Chicago Historical Society; the officers and membership of Professional Numismatists Guild, without whose co-operation and effort this research and exhibit would have been impossible.

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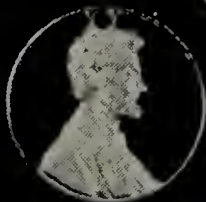
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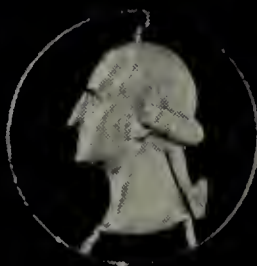
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